

To: R6 Daily News MailList[R6_DailyNewsML@epa.gov]
From: Hubbard, Joseph
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[Daily News Digest 08132015.pdf](#)

1 — EPA Administrator Says Water Quality Is Improving In Contaminated Western Rivers, Texas Public Radio, 8/12/2015

<http://tpr.org/post/epa-administrator-says-water-quality-improving-contaminated-western-rivers>

The head of the Environmental Protection Agency says samples of waters that flow through three Western states, contaminated by waste from an abandoned Colorado mine last week, are showing improvement. Experts say the heavy metals and other materials are still there, though, in the riverbeds. Speaking to reporters today from Durango, Colo., EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy promised more details later but did provide what she called "very good news."

2 — EPA: Good news on river water testing, Albuquerque Journal, 8/12/2015

<http://www.abqjournal.com/627520/news/epa-good-news-on-river-water-testing.html>

The Environmental Protection Agency's top official said Wednesday that data from the Gina McCarthy, Environmental Protection Agency administrator, spoke with the news media in Durango, Colo., on Wednesday. Animas River in La Plata County show good news, but other officials immediately raised concerns about long-term effects from the contaminated water that spilled from a mine north of Silverton last week.

3 – LSU AgCenter water economist helps farmers, foresters interpret new Clean Water Rule, WWNO, 8/13/2015

<http://wwno.org/post/lsu-agcenter-water-economist-helps-farmers-foresters-interpret-new-clean-water-rule>

A federal rule that revises which bodies of water are subject to the Clean Water Act will take effect Aug. 28. Some Louisiana farmers are concerned that the new Clean Water Rule is overreaching. The biggest change is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is defining ditches, according to LSU Ag Center water policy economist Naveen Adusumilli. Any ditch that is part of a tributary or connected to a previously jurisdictional waterway would now have to be in compliance with the Clean Water Act.

4 — New Orleans shrimpers, fishermen rally for changes to federal seafood import regulations, WDSU, 8/12/2015

<http://www.wdsu.com/news/local-news/new-orleans/local-shrimpers-fishermac-to-rally-wednesday-for-changes-to-federal-seafood-import-regulations/34670510>

While the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council met in New Orleans, those who support and work in

Louisiana's seafood and fishing industries rallied outside. Local shrimpers and fisherman said the U.S. government's poor regulation of importing seafood has been affecting their livelihoods, and they need things to change soon before, they say, an industry that has thrived for generations in Louisiana is destroyed.

5 — Shell Oil accidentally spills hundreds of thousands of pounds of toxic gas in Deer Park, Houston Chron, 8/12/2015

<http://www.chron.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Shell-Oil-accidentally-spills-hundreds-of-6438343.php?cmpid=fb-desktop>

On Sunday morning, hundreds of thousands of pounds of toxic gas were accidentally released from the Shell Oil facility in Deer Park. According to reports from the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, 326,166 pounds of butadiene escaped through an open valve on a spherical tank between 10:40 am and 11:35 am.

6 — DEQ and EPA plan Henryetta Industrial Park cleanup hearing, Tulsa ABC, 8/13/2015

<http://www.ktul.com/story/29775921/deq-and-epa-plan-henryetta-industrial-park-cleanup-hearing>

The Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality and the Environmental Protection Agency are planning an open house in Henryetta later this month to discuss cleanup of the Shurden-Leist Industrial Park. The site is the result of the combined efforts of DEQ, EPA and the city of Henryetta to clean up the former Eagle Picher and Victory Metals smelter sites. The Shurden-Leist Industrial Park comprises about 70 acres and sits on the former Eagle Picher smelter site, which operated as a zinc and cadmium smelter from 1916 to 1968.

7 – Farm Bureau: Maps Show Massive Increase in EPA Authority, Regulatory Uncertainty for Everyone Else, Farm Bureau, 8/12/2015

http://www.fb.org/newsroom/news_article/344/

A series of maps released today by the American Farm Bureau Federation show how the EPA will radically expand its jurisdiction over land use if its controversial Waters of the United States rule takes effect as expected August 28. That expansion comes even as major parts of the rule remain largely incomprehensible to experts and laypeople, alike. The maps, prepared by Geosyntec Consulting, show the dramatic expansion of EPA's regulatory reach, stretching across wide swaths of land in Pennsylvania, Virginia and Montana.

8 — EPA awards grant to Arkansas take action on air toxics, THV 11, 8/12/2015

<http://www.thv11.com/story/news/2015/08/12/epa-awards-grant-arkansas-take-action-air-toxics/31545315/>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has awarded a \$503,071 grant to the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality to help administer the state's pollution prevention and control program.

9 — Devil's Swamp Lake fish too polluted to eat, DHH warns, Times Picayune, 8/13/2015

http://www.nola.com/politics/index.ssf/2015/08/dhh_steps_up_water_warnings_fo.html#incart_most_shared-environment

Citing "unacceptable levels" of PCBs and mercury, the Department of Health and Hospitals has stepped up warnings about dangerous water in Devil's Swamp Lake and Bayou Baton Rouge in Scotlandville. The department is telling residents not to consume any fish or crawfish pulled out of either body of water, and is also warning people to "avoid swimming and participating in water activities there.

10 — Oklahoma Beekeepers, Farmers Discuss Balancing Hive Health and Crop Protection, NPR, 8/12/2015

<https://stateimpact.npr.org/oklahoma/2015/08/12/oklahoma-beekeepers-farmers-discuss-balancing-hive-health-and-crop-protection/>

Oklahoma lost a greater percentage of its honeybee colonies than any other state over the last year. On Tuesday, beekeepers, scientists, and farmers gathered at Langston University's Oklahoma City campus to give their input on a plan to better protect pollinators of all kinds. The discussion centered on balancing the need to apply pesticides to crops, with the dangers those chemicals pose to pollinating insects.

11 — After 17 Years, Texas Poised to Resolve Oil Spill, Texas Tribune, 8/13/2015

<http://www.texastribune.org/2015/08/13/i-love-90s-texas-poised-resolve-long-ago-oil-spill/>

In the time it has taken the state and federal governments to penalize a Koch Industries affiliate for a South Texas oil spill, 17 different quarterbacks started games for the Dallas Cowboys, including the team's current head coach.

12 — Judge approves Exxon Mobil settlement over 2013 Arkansas spill, Reuters, 8/12/2015

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/08/12/us-exxonmobil-settlement-idUSKCN0QH2FJ20150812>

A federal judge on Wednesday approved Exxon Mobil Corp's \$5.07 million settlement of charges that it violated the federal Clean Water Act and state environmental laws in connection with a 2013 oil spill in central Arkansas. U.S. District Judge Kristine Baker in Little Rock, Arkansas called Exxon Mobil's consent decree with the United States and Arkansas "fair, reasonable, and adequate, and consistent with the Clean Water Act."

13 — 'They figured our neighborhood is black, so they'll do it', CPI, 8/13/2015

<http://www.publicintegrity.org/2015/08/13/17759/they-figured-our-neighborhood-black-so-theyll-do-it>

At the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's regional office in New York City Lane presented to a table full of civil-rights investigators and lawyers a PowerPoint detailing the Southside community's struggles: the state highway dissecting the historically black neighborhood; the industrial plants dumping on residents; and now the sewage treatment facility threatening to add to the burden.

14 Grassroots effort helps clean up Tres Palacios Creek, Victoria Advocate, 8/11/15

<http://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2015/aug/11/grassroots-effort-forms-to-help-clean-up-tres-pala/>

A Bay City man wiped sweat from his brow as he pulled his boat out of the Tres Palacios Creek on Saturday. For decades, Larry Capps has fished the creek a few miles upstream of the Tres Palacios Bay. Capps has caught giant redfish and gafftop in the saltwater that sinks to the bottom

of the creek.

15 Scientific integrity plan 'stuck in utero' – watchdogs, Greenwire, 8/12/2015

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2015/08/12/stories/1060023358>

U.S. EPA is dragging its feet when it comes to ensuring the integrity of its science, according to a government watchdog group. Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility yesterday sent a letter to EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy criticizing her agency for failing to fully implement an official scientific integrity policy.

16 Texas' Galveston Bay gets C in health report card, Greenwire, 8/12/15

<http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2015/08/12/stories/1060023351>

The first-ever report card on the health of Texas' Galveston Bay gave the waterway a C and warned that conditions will worsen unless steps are taken to continue restoration efforts. The report released today by the Houston Advanced Research Center and Galveston Bay Foundation described a bay that is under assault by pollution, habitat loss and climate change. The bay is destined to lose the health gains it has made over the past three decades if no further action is taken, the authors wrote.

17 - Coastal restoration: The money, by the numbers, Times Picayune, 8/11/15

http://www.nola.com/futureofneworleans/2015/08/coastal_restoration_a_financia.html

Here's a breakdown of the money needed to pay for Louisiana's Master Plan, with half dedicated to coastal restoration. The chart includes known and possible future money sources.

18 — 17 states launch legal assault against startup-shutdown rule, EE News, 8/12/15

<http://www.eenews.net/stories/1060023356>

Seventeen states are challenging U.S. EPA's recent rule that changed the way states are required to address excess air pollution that occurs during plant startups and shutdowns or industrial equipment malfunctions. In a petition for review, the states argue that EPA "erroneously concluded" that their plans to reduce pollution were "inadequate" to address emissions that occur during those times.

19 No Injuries Reported In East Texas Paint Plant Fire, CBS DFW, 8/12/15

<http://dfw.cbslocal.com/2015/08/12/no-injuries-reported-in-east-texas-paint-plant-fire/>

Investigators say nobody has been hurt in an overnight fire and explosions at a paint-related industrial plant in East Texas. Authorities are trying to determine what sparked the fire early Wednesday at Century Industrial Coating- a paint manufacturing plant Off Highway 69 near Jacksonville. Officials say the fire was brought under control by about dawn.